

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE RESOURCES STANDING COMMITTEE**

April 19, 2021

3:34 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Joshua Revak, Chair
Senator Peter Micciche, Vice Chair
Senator Click Bishop
Senator Gary Stevens
Senator Jesse Kiehl

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Natasha von Imhof
Senator Scott Kawasaki

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

SENATE BILL NO. 97

"An Act relating to state land; relating to the authority of the Department of Education and Early Development to dispose of state land; relating to the authority of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to dispose of state land; relating to the authority of the Department of Natural Resources over certain state land; relating to the state land disposal income fund; relating to the leasing and sale of state land for commercial development; repealing establishment of recreation rivers and recreation river corridors; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED CSSB 97(RES) OUT OF COMMITTEE

CONFIRMATION HEARING(S)

Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission
Melvin Smith - Anchorage

- Confirmation Advanced

Board of Fisheries
John Jensen - Petersburg
Abe Williams - Anchorage
McKenzie Mitchell - Fairbanks

John Wood - Willow
Marit Carlson-Van Dort - Chignik

- Confirmations Advanced

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: SB 97

SHORT TITLE: STATE LAND SALES AND LEASES; RIVERS

SPONSOR(s): RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

03/03/21	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
03/03/21	(S)	RES, FIN
03/17/21	(S)	RES AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
03/17/21	(S)	Heard & Held
03/17/21	(S)	MINUTE(RES)
04/09/21	(S)	RES AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
04/09/21	(S)	<Bill Hearing Canceled>
04/19/21	(S)	RES AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205

WITNESS REGISTER

MARTY PARSONS, Director
Division of Mining, Land, and Water
Department of Natural Resources
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Presented the changes in the committee substitute for SB 97.

AL VEZEY, representing self
North Pole, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of the appointment of Melvin Smith to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission.

TIM GOSSETT, representing self
Kodiak, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Marit Carlson-Van Dort to the Board of Fisheries.

CHUCK MCCALLUM, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified of support of the appointments of Marit Carlson-Van Dort, John Wood, and McKenzie Mitchell to the Board of Fisheries.

MIKE WOOD, representing self

Chase, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of the appointments of Marit Carlson-Van Dort and John Wood to the Board of Fisheries.

LINDSAY LAYLAND, Deputy Director

United Tribes of Bristol Bay

Dillingham, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries.

PATRICIA PREITY, representing self

Dillingham, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries.

FRANCES LEACH, Executive Director

United Fishermen of Alaska

Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Marit Carlson-Van Dort to the Board of Fisheries.

CARLA CHEBNOY, representing self

Sandpoint, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of the appointment of Melvin Smith to the Alaska Commercial Entry Commission

ISREAL PAYTON, representing self

Wasilla, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of the appointments of John Jensen, John Wood, and Marit Carlson-Van Dort to the Board of Fisheries.

GARY HOLLIER, representing self

Kenai, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of the appointments of John Jensen, John Wood, Marit Carlson-Van Dort, and Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries.

SUE JEFFERY, representing self

Kodiak, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of the appointment of John Jensen to the Board of Fisheries, and in opposition to the appointment of Marit Carlson-Van Dort to the Board of Fisheries.

VIRGIL UMPHENOUR, representative

Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee

North Pole, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of the confirmations of McKenzie Mitchell and Marit Carlson-Van Dort to the Board of Fisheries.

BRUCE SCHAETLER, representing self
Kodiak, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointments of Marit Carlson-Van Dort and John Wood to the Board of Fisheries.

RICHARD GUSTAFSON, representing self
Homer, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries.

RACHEL ALLEN, representing self
Chignik, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of the appointment of Marit Carlson-Van Dort, McKenzie Mitchell, and John Wood to the Board of Fisheries.

VIRGINIA ADAMS, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Marit Carlson-Van Dort to the Board of Fisheries.

FORREST BRADEN, representative
Southeast Alaska Guide Organization
Ketchikan, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of the appointments of John Jensen, John Wood, Marit Carlson-Van Dort, and McKenzie Mitchell to the Board of Fisheries.

JEFFREY MOORE, representing self
Chignik Lagoon, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of all the current nominees to the Board of Fisheries.

GARY CLINE, representing self
Dillingham, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries.

LUKE BROCKMANN, representing self
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries.

NATE ROSE, President
Kodiak Seiners Association
Kodiak, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Marit Carlson-Van Dort to the Board of Fisheries.

GEORGE ANDERSON, President
Chignik Intertribal Coalition
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of the appointments of Marit Carlson-Van Dort, John Wood, and McKenzie Mitchell to the Board of Fisheries.

CHELSEA HAISNAN, Executive Director
Cordova District Fisherman United
Cordova, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Marit Carlson-Van Dort to the Board of Fisheries, and in support of the appointment of John Jensen to the Board of Fisheries.

JULIA KAVANAUGH, representing self
Kodiak, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of the appointment of John Jensen to the Board of Fisheries.

JACK GRUMMETTE, representing self
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries.

DUNCAN FIELDS, representative
Kodiak Salmon Work Group
Kodiak, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointment of Marit Carlson-Van Dort to the Board of Fisheries.

PAUL SCHADURA, representing self
Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to the appointments of Marit Carlson-Van Dort, McKenzie Mitchell, and John Wood to the Board of Fisheries.

MARIT CALSON-VAN DORT, appointee
Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as an appointee to the Board of Fisheries.

ABE WILLIAMS, appointee
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as an appointee to the Board of Fisheries.

ACTION NARRATIVE

3:34:29 PM

CHAIR JOSHUA REVAK called the Senate Resources Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Stevens, Kiehl, Micciche, and Chair Revak. Senator Bishop arrived immediately thereafter.

SB 97-STATE LAND SALES AND LEASES; RIVERS

3:35:29 PM

CHAIR REVAK announced the consideration of SENATE BILL NO. 97 "An Act relating to state land; relating to the authority of the Department of Education and Early Development to dispose of state land; relating to the authority of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to dispose of state land; relating to the authority of the Department of Natural Resources over certain state land; relating to the state land disposal income fund; relating to the leasing and sale of state land for commercial development; repealing establishment of recreation rivers and recreation river corridors; and providing for an effective date."

He asked Marty Parsons to provide a brief overview of the bill before the committee considered a committee substitute (CS).

3:35:57 PM

MARTY PARSONS, Director, Division of Mining, Land, and Water, Department of Natural Resources, Anchorage, Alaska, presented the changes in the committee substitute for SB 97. The prepared document read as follow:

1. Bill Title: New Language
 - a. Delete portion of title pertaining to repealing the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan.

- b. Insert new title language pertaining to covenants and restrictions on agricultural lands
2. Section 2: Clarification
 - a. Clarifies the amendment to AS 19.30.080 (Construction standards and maintenance) related to the consistent application of municipal road construction standards required of the State when building access roads.
3. Section 13: Conforming
 - a. Removed unnecessary federal law references in subsection (b).
4. Section 15 & Section 16: New Language
 - a. The proposed amendments are intended to make additional agricultural land available for smaller producers and to expand the definition of agricultural purpose on parcels 20 acres or less. The additions would include authorized uses (services) that support the agricultural industry, such as a farm equipment and repair operation near the farms.
5. Delete Sections 19 & 20 of previous bill version-A
 - a. Delete §19 & §20 pertaining to the repeal of the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan

MR. PARSONS explained that Sections 19 and 20 were removed because the department believes a more robust conversation among a larger group of stakeholders is needed before any changes are made.

[3:39:42 PM](#)

CHAIR REVAK agreed and thanked the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's Fish and Wildlife Commission for its input. He asked for a motion to adopt the committee substitute (CS).

[3:40:30 PM](#)

SENATOR MICCICHE moved to adopt the committee substitute (CS) for SB 97, work order 32-GS1634\I, as the working document.

[3:41:36 PM](#)

SENATOR STEVENS asked how much land the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) and the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF) have that could be available for sale under the bill.

[3:42:00 PM](#)

MR. PARSONS replied DEED has very little land, and most of it is near villages where small parcels were identified specifically for schools, whereas DPTPF has more that it had acquired for specific purposes but he did not know how much. He clarified that the bill only allows these agencies to dispose of land that was acquired specifically for their purposes.

SENATOR STEVENS thanked him for the information.

[3:43:46 PM](#)

SENATOR KIEHL recalled legislation in the past that attempted to give DOTPF these authorities and it elicited concerns. He posited that there would be opportunities to give this a further look as the bill moved through the process.

CHAIR REVAK noted the bill had a finance referral.

[3:44:15 PM](#)

SENATOR MICCICHE commented that the changes that appear in the CS made a good bill better.

[3:45:05 PM](#)

CHAIR REVAK removed his objection. Finding no further objection, version I was adopted.

[3:45:37 PM](#)

SENATOR MICCICHE moved to report the CS for SB 97, work order 32-GS1634\I, from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s).

[3:45:55 PM](#)

CHAIR REVAK found no objection and CSSB 97(RES) was reported from the Senate Resources Standing Committee.

[3:46:09 PM](#)

At ease

CONFIRMATION HEARING(S)
Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission
Alaska Board of Fisheries

[3:48:16 PM](#)

CHAIR REVAK reconvened the meeting and announced the committee would hear additional public testimony on the governor

appointees to the Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission.

3:49:51 PM

AL VEZEY, representing self, North Pole, Alaska, testified in support of the appointment of Melvin Smith to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. He said there is nobody better suited to serve on this commission.

3:50:48 PM

TIM GOSSETT, representing self, Kodiak, Alaska, testified in opposition to the appointment of Marit Carlson-Van Dort to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. He said it is important for board members to approach allocation proposals with an open mind. He offered his perspective that Ms. Carlson-Van Dort came to the Kodiak meeting knowing she would change the Kodiak management plan, despite data showing reasons not to make changes. She did not come to the meeting with an open mind and she cherry-picked the data to justify "purely allocative changes made for conservation."

3:52:12 PM

CHUCK MCCALLUM, representing self, Anchorage, Alaska, testified of support of the appointments of Marit Carlson-Van Dort, John Wood, and McKenzie Mitchell to the Board of Fisheries. Ms. Carlson-Van Dort brings a balanced point of view, understands subsistence, fished commercially for more than 10 years, has academic training in fishery science, conservation and biology, and she listens to all sides of an issue. He offered his belief that if the board had been biased towards the status quo, Kodiak fishermen would not be complaining about her. The board show up in Kodiak with an open mind so the meeting was less predictable and more volatile. Ms. Carlson-Van Dort was singled out with unjustified complaints against her character and integrity. He said John Wood has the ability to listen to and understand all sides of complicated issues. The state needs people like him on the board. McKenzie Mitchell has limited experience on the board but has made an effort to educate herself and is fair and open minded. Her economics background should be a welcome skillset.

3:54:14 PM

MIKE WOOD, representing self, Chase, Alaska, testified in support of the appointments of Marit Carlson-Van Dort and John Wood to the Board of Fisheries. Ms. Carlson-Van Dort took the time to visit sites in the Susitna area and listened to what the fishermen had to say. She understands the Chignik fishery and how the Northern District in particular is affected by

allocation decisions. He opined she made a good, well-educated decision at the Kodiak meeting after listening to the people in the area. He expressed appreciation for John Wood's ability to work with people and his use of science and data.

3:56:32 PM

LINDSAY LAYLAND, Deputy Director, United Tribes of Bristol Bay (UTBB), Dillingham, Alaska, testified in opposition to the confirmation of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries. He questioned whether working for The Pebble Partnership might be in conflict with serving on the Board of Fisheries. The purpose of this board is to conserve and develop the fisheries of the state whereas the mission of The Pebble Partnership is to develop an open pit mine in the pristine habitat at the head of the Bristol Bay watershed. These missions are in direct conflict. She emphasized that there was no way for Mr. Williams to prioritize both Alaska fisheries and The Pebble Partnership. Even if Pebble were out of the equation, he would not be a suitable candidate because he lacks the perspective of living and working in coastal Alaska while serving on the board. Appropriate representation of rural Alaska is critical for this board to function effectively, fairly, and with the perspective that extends beyond the Railbelt. She pointed out that for 40 years the board has almost constantly had representation from a Bristol Bay resident and excluding that representation now does fisheries management in the state a great disservice. She urged the committee to carefully consider the huge outpouring of opposition, both in testimony and written comments, to the appointment of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries.

MS. LAYLAND added that she personally opposes the appointment of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries.

4:00:46 PM

PATRICIA PREITY, representing self, Dillingham, Alaska, testified in opposition to the appointment of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries. She is a retired Bristol Bay drift fisher who lives in Dillingham. Many of her family continue to fish in Bristol Bay and she hopes future generations will be able to make as good a life fishing as she has had. The Pebble mine is the main threat to the Bristol Bay fisheries and Abe Williams is the spokesman for that company. She noted that he had already filed a lawsuit on behalf of The Pebble Partnership against the Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association (BBRSDA) and other groups opposed to the mine. The judge dismissed the case, calling it absurd. She concluded that it would be even more absurd to confirm an employee of the greatest

threat to the Bristol Bay to the Board of Fisheries. She asked the committee to use common sense and not confirm Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries.

4:02:32 PM

FRANCES LEACH, Executive Director, United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA), Juneau, Alaska, testified in opposition to the appointment of Marit Carlson-Van Dort to the Board of Fisheries. She said this is a statewide issue, not just a Kodiak Chignik issue. UFA has 37 member groups statewide from Bering Sea crabbers to salmon fishermen to longliners that voted unanimously to oppose the appointment of Marit Carlson-Van Dort. She maintained that if Ms. Carlson-Van Dort were truly qualified to hold the subsistence seat, there would not be as much opposition. She leans toward sport fish and those advocates are fighting to keep her in the subsistence seat. Commercial fishermen are asking for balance, not a sport fish advocate in a subsistence seat.

4:04:11 PM

CARLA CHEBNOY, representing self, Sandpoint, Alaska, testified in support of the appointment of Melvin Smith to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. She has known him for 40 years and he is very knowledgeable about the Alaska fishing industry. He will be an asset as a CFEC commissioner.

4:04:50 PM

ISREAL PAYTON, representing self, Wasilla, Alaska, testified in support of the appointments of John Jensen, John Wood, and Marit Carlson-Van Dort to the Board of Fisheries. Speaking as the most senior member of the Board of Fisheries, he said John Jensen is an excellent board member and should be reconfirmed. John Wood and Marit Carlson-Van Dort are also excellent board members. They started at the varsity level several years ago and continue to impress him. He said he was testifying to refute the false accusations about Ms. Carlson-Van Dort. His experience has been that she displays outstanding character. The board makes hard decisions that are not popular with all stakeholders, but somebody should not be punished for making hard decisions. He also refuted the false narrative of designated seats.

4:06:46 PM

GARY HOLLIER, representing self, Kenai, Alaska, testified in support of the appointments of John Jensen, John Wood, Marit Carlson-Van Dort, and Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries. He has been a Cook Inlet East Side setnetter for 50 years and has attended Cook Inlet meetings for more than 35 years. They are

always contentious. He supports John Jensen 100 percent because he is fair. John Wood paid for a trip to Kenai to educate himself by talking to setnetters, drifters, and processors before the 2020 Board of Fisheries meeting. He testified against Marit Carlson-Van Dort in an earlier meeting but he now supports her. She made herself available at the 2020 Upper Cook Inlet board meeting. He said he would also support Abe Williams.

4:08:25 PM

SUE JEFFERY, representing self, Kodiak, Alaska, testified in support of the appointment of John Jensen to the Board of Fisheries, and in opposition to the appointment of Marit Carlson-Van Dort to the Board of Fisheries. Ms. Jeffery said she has been involved in the Alaska fishing industry since she moved to Kodiak in 1972. She has also been involved in public service, including the Board of Fisheries. She served with John Jensen for two terms and found him to be a fair and ethical public servant. She opposes the reappointment of Marit Carlson-Van Dort because she is the President and CEO of Far West Inc. and an employee of an Alaska Native Village Corporation in Chignik so she has a conflict of interest in decisions about allocation of fish when Chignik is involved. She should have recused herself in the Cape Igvak decision. High ethical standards are key to maintaining Alaska's stellar reputation of managing its world-class fisheries, thus her opposition.

4:11:10 PM

VIRGIL UMPHENOUR, representative, Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (FFGAC), North Pole, Alaska, testified in support of the confirmations of McKenzie Mitchell and Marit Carlson-Van Dort to the Board of Fisheries. He related that FFGAC voted unanimously on these appointments during its April 14 meeting. Ms. Carlson-Van Dort has a long family history in subsistence and commercial fishing. She is the only board member with degrees in conservation biology and fishery science. She is knowledgeable about both the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea fisheries and has been an effective chair of the board. He maintained that the claims of conflicts of interest were unfounded. He said Ms. Mitchell has an extensive background in sport fisheries and is the only member of the board with a degree in economics. Her expertise will be invaluable in assessing the economics of allocation among different users.

Speaking for himself, Mr. Umphenour stated support for the appointment of Marit Carlson-Van Dort to the Board of Fisheries. He related that he served three terms on the Board of Fisheries and the United Fishermen of Alaska opposed his appointment twice

for the same reasons they now oppose Ms. Carlson-Van Dort. The issues Kodiak fishermen have at Cape Igvak have been ongoing since limited entry.

4:13:58 PM

BRUCE SCHACTLER, representing self, Kodiak, Alaska, testified in opposition to the appointments of Marit Carlson-Van Dort and John Wood to the Board of Fisheries. He stated he is an active fisherman in Kodiak and he does not want to see politics enter the confirmation process. He said all but one Board of Fisheries member live within 100 miles of Anchorage and he does not feel that is good representation. He does not support John Wood because he stated at the Kodiak meeting that he was there to represent his people and ensure that more fish got into the Matanuska Valley where he was from. He was appointed to make management decisions about fish; he was not elected to represent a constituency. Mr. Schactler maintained that Mr. Wood worked with Marit Carlson-Van Dort and Israel Payton on a complicated proposal that had to have been written long before the meeting. "Everything that trio does is the epitome of special interest," he said. They do not appear to represent the resource.

4:17:12 PM

RICHARD GUSTAFSON, representing self, Homer, Alaska, testified in opposition to the appointment of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries. He stated he is a retired ADF&G biologist who started his career in Bristol Bay in 1973 when the fish did not return. He was immediately struck with the pristine habitat in Bristol Bay that is so important to the fish. He said he opposes Abe Williams because he does not understand the importance of habitat to healthy fisheries. He can't understand because he works for The Pebble Partnership that says different things to different groups. He cannot be unbiased and should be rejected.

4:18:49 PM

RACHEL ALLEN, representing self, Chignik, Alaska, testified in support of the appointments of Marit Carlson-Van Dort, McKenzie Mitchell, and John Wood to the Board of Fisheries. Speaking as a long time seiner in Chignik and Kodiak, she said she does not think it is a coincidence that these areas and the South Peninsula have experienced under-escapement for three years while interception fisheries chug right along. She said these board members are working in a very challenging era because they largely carry the burden of protecting the salmon. She stated strong support for Marit Carlson-Van Dort, McKenzie Mitchell, and John Wood who will protect the salmon resource as their first priority. This is what Alaska needs right now, she said.

4:20:45 PM

VIRGINA ADAMS, representing self, Anchorage, Alaska, testified in opposition to the appointment of Marit Carlson-Van Dort to the Board of Fisheries. Ms. Adams said she is a lifelong Kodiak based fisherman who has been involved with the Board of Fisheries throughout her working life. She emphasized that all fish resource users in Alaska depend on all Board of Fisheries members being open minded and agenda free. "We depend on the Board of Fish to be this jewel of integrity." Unfortunately, Ms. Carlson-Van Dort came to the January meeting with preconceived notions. Thus her opposition to the appointment.

4:22:45 PM

FORREST BRADEN, representative, Southeast Alaska Guide Organization, Ketchikan, Alaska, testified in support of the appointments of John Jensen, John Wood, Marit Carlson-Van Dort, and McKenzie Mitchell to the Board of Fisheries. He stated this is a nonprofit trade association that represents the interests of sport fishing lodges and charter businesses. On behalf of SAGO, he stated support for the reappointments to the Board of Fisheries for: John Jensen who is approachable and has support from many fisheries; John Wood and Marit Carlson-Van Dort who acted competently and with independent thinking during the Upper and Lower Cook Inlet meetings; and McKenzie Mitchell who has a sincere interest and appears well qualified based on her academic and industry work. He emphasized that SAGO does not support board stacking. Rather, it is interested in fair and objective dialog among board members and user groups.

4:24:20 PM

JEFFREY MOORE, Chignik Lagoon, Alaska, testified in support of all the current appointments to the Board of Fisheries. He is an elder rural resident of the tribal Native village of Chignik Lagoon whose only participation in the fisheries is as a subsistence user. He was speaking on behalf of the communities of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Perryville, and Ivanof Bay to provide written and oral testimony in support of all of Governor Mike Dunleavy's nominations to the Board of Fisheries and Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. He offered his view that the current appointees reflect diversity, knowledge and experience. They have the capacity to be one of the best Board of Fisheries ever assembled since Jay Hammond appointed the first members in 1975. They will provide management policies that prioritize conservation and subsistence while spurring economic growth in the commercial and sport

fisheries. He advised he would send his written testimony to each committee member.

4:26:48 PM

GARY CLINE, representing self, Dillingham, Alaska, testified in opposition to the appointment of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries. Abe Williams' position with Pebble Mine is a conflict of interest, but his testimony today would focus on permit stacking. He said it is disturbing that Mr. Williams has a predetermined decision about permit stacking in the Bristol Bay salmon fishery. This does not represent the values of the majority of Bristol Bay residents. He pointed out that board members are supposed to use allocative criteria when making allocative decisions such as the number of residents and nonresidents that have participated in each fishery in the past and the number that can reasonably expect to participate in the future; the importance of each fishery to the economy of the state; and the importance of each fishery to the economy of the region and local area in which the fishery is located. He reported that a majority of fishers in the Bristol Bay region are opposed to permit stacking, believing it will hinder local residents from entering the fishery in the future. Once a permit holder is allowed to hold two permits and fish additional gear, the top producers will buy the remaining permits on the market, which will increase the already high price of a Bristol Bay permit. He questioned how that will help curb the outward migration of permits from Bristol Bay and the state. He concluded that permit stacking is not the solution to the graying of the fleet or the outward migration of permits.

4:28:56 PM

LUKE BROCKMANN, representing self, Juneau, Alaska, testified in opposition to the appointment of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries. Mr. Brockmann stated he is an avid sport fisherman and commercial fishing crew member. Despite the long wait and personal challenges, he waited online to testify that Abe Williams has no place on the Board of Fisheries. He likened it to appointing Lord Vader to the Jedi Council after he went to the dark side. Working for The Pebble Partnership and trying to serve on the Board of Fisheries is a fox in the henhouse situation. He suggested this appointment merits investigation.

4:30:30 PM

NATE ROSE, President, Kodiak Seiners Association (KSA), Kodiak, Alaska, testified in opposition to the appointment of Marit Carlson-Van Dort to the Board of Fisheries. KSA represents over 100 Kodiak seine permit holders, crew members, and Kodiak

businesses. He explained that KSA's opposition to the appointment of Marit Carlson-Van Dort stems from her actions at the January 2020 Kodiak finfish meeting when she aligned herself with other board members to pass pure allocative proposals under the guise of conservation. He opined that scientific data was manipulated to satisfy a longstanding allocative fight between management regions. This eroded public trust in the Board of Fisheries' process and assaulted sustained yield management plans that were refined by years of careful scrutiny to provide biological protection for the Chignik fishery.

CHAIR REVAK reminded testifiers that they could submit their written testimony to sres@akleg.gov.

[4:33:06 PM](#).

GEORGE ANDERSON, President, Chignik Intertribal Coalition (CIC), Anchorage, Alaska, testified in support of the appointments of Marit Carlson-Van Dort, John Wood, and McKenzie Mitchell to the Board of Fisheries. He stated that CIC represents the tribes of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Ivanof Bay, and Perryville who in turn support the appointments listed above. These board members have demonstrated they can make fair decisions on both conservation and allocative matters. They have consistently worked to protect migrating salmon stocks returning to natal streams.

He reported that CIS is aligned with the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), Tanana Chief's, and the many tribes that support having an Alaska Native woman and subsistence advocate on the Board of Fisheries. CIC is proud of her background conservation biology and fisheries science, and how she applies the science as a member of the board. She is an important voice that should be retained. Now more than ever, the board needs people who are qualified and willing to protect migrating salmon resources.

[4:34:48 PM](#)

CHELSEA HAISNAN, Executive Director, Cordova District Fisherman United (CDFU), Cordova, Alaska, testified in opposition to the appointment of Marit Carlson-Van Dort to the Board of Fisheries, and in support of the appointment of John Jensen to the Board of Fisheries. CDFU's opposition to the appointment of Marit Carlson-Van Dort centers on the perceived conflicts of interest in her decisions during the Kodiak finfish meeting. It is critical that board members listen and engage with the public and all user groups and weigh their decisions carefully based on the information presented. A more important concern is that the balance of the board has recently deviated from historical norms

and precedents. While the Board of Fisheries has no designated seats, coastal communities that are most affected by decisions of the board are vastly underrepresented in its current iteration. The urban/rural divide has become more pronounced and the balance between user groups on the board is heavily weighted towards sport fishing. She urged the committee to consider the comments and ensure the board is not weighted towards one user group or region over others. She also reiterated CDFU's support for the reappointment of John Jensen to the Board of Fisheries. He is a fair, engaged, and well-rounded member of the board.

4:36:28 PM

JULIA KAVANAUGH, representing self, Kodiak, Alaska, testified in support of the appointment of John Jensen to the Board of Fisheries. Ms. Kavanaugh said she comes from a commercial fishing family that is 100 percent reliant on that income. She said John Jensen brings a unique position to the board as a member of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. She opposes Abe Williams and Marit Carlson-Van Dort and is concerned about the remaining appointees and the lack of diverse stakeholder and regional representation. She described the January 2020 Igvak decision as an allocative decision that did not address the failure of the run or conservation in that area. She pointed out that even without the 2020 action, Kodiak fishermen would not have fished at Igvak. She highlighted that the participants at recent board meetings thought the board members had already made up their minds. She urged the committee to listen to the public's concerns about this governor's appointments and hopefully get a different appointee with a broader perspective for the Board of Fisheries.

4:40:07 PM

JACK GRUMMETTE, representing self, Juneau, Alaska, testified in opposition to the appointment of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries. As a lifelong fisherman, Mr. Grummette said he is opposed to this appointment due to Mr. William's role at The Pebble Partnership. It is a conflict of interest. The board is charged with managing Alaska's fisheries without personal bias, and there is no reason to have faith that he could fulfill this role. If he is confirmed, it would set a dangerous precedent and jeopardize fish resources going forward. He urged the legislature to reject the appointment of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries and encouraged the governor to find a suitable and unbiased candidate who is backed by Alaska fishermen. He concluded that Alaskans deserve a board that reflects their needs, not self-interests.

[4:41:24 PM](#)

DUNCAN FIELDS, representative, Kodiak Salmon Work Group (KSWG), Kodiak, Alaska, testified in opposition to the appointment of Marit Carlson-Van Dort to the Board of Fisheries. He reported that KSWG represents the fishing groups, processors, and community stakeholders on Kodiak Island on the fisheries issues. He advised that his testimony would focus on Ms. Carlson-Van Dort's personal conflict of interest. It does not pass the red face test to think that she can make fair and unbiased decisions about the allocation and management of fisheries resources because of her strong tie to Chignik fisheries. He maintained that she cannot separate herself from the interests of the communities in the Chignik area. She does a tremendous job and should be respected for her advocacy for those communities. However, she has a clear personal conflict of interest when it comes to fishery decisions related to Chignik area communities, and she chose not to recuse herself when she should have. This should disqualify her from being confirmed to a seat on the Board of Fisheries. He concluded his testimony by quoting comments from tribal council members who took issue with Ms. Carlson-Van Dort's statement that she was a subsistence representative to the council.

[4:44:52 PM](#)

PAUL SCHADURA, representing self, Kenai Peninsula, Alaska, testified in opposition to the appointments of Marit Carlson-Van Dort, McKenzie Mitchell, and John Wood to the Board of Fisheries. He related that he has been a commercial fisherman for 53 years and an active participant in the Board of Fisheries process since the early '70s. He voiced concern about board members who state they pursue discussions with commercial fishers, but do not acknowledge that their discussions disregard a majority of fishers and user groups. He emphasized that this does not constitute fair or impartial dialog and does not lead to equitable solutions. He emphasized the responsibility the board has in setting management plans and policies, and the importance of balanced representation to reflect all user groups in the state. He recounted that the board has three members representing commercial interests, three members representing sport fishing interests, and one primarily subsistence stakeholder who may have participated in other multiple use fisheries. When the board travels to Western Alaska the subsistence user expertise and knowledge is critically important. He said the board is out of balance, thus he cannot support the appointments of Marit Carlson-Van Dort, McKenzie Mitchell, or John Wood to the Board of Fisheries.

4:47:12 PM

At ease

4:48:18 PM

CHAIR REVAK reconvened the meeting. He asked Marit Carlson-Van Dort and Abe Williams if they would like to provide closing comments.

4:49:17 PM

MARIT CARLSON-VAN DORT, appointee, Board of Fisheries, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Anchorage, Alaska, addressed the claims of her conflict of interest, pointing out that less than 2.5 percent of Far West Inc. shareholders are Chignik permit holders and less than 1.5 percent are in-village residents. She emphasized that the biggest challenge the board faces is how to manage fisheries in the interest of conservation while satisfying the needs of various user groups. Decisions must be made on sound and defensible science while incorporating invaluable local and traditional knowledge. She stated she was capable and willing to put in the hundreds if not thousands of hours of work to serve with fairness, balance, and integrity on the Board of Fisheries.

4:50:24 PM

ABE WILLIAMS, appointee, Alaska Board of Fisheries, Anchorage, Alaska, said he understands that his employment by The Pebble Partnership is a hot topic. However, he believes that his years involved in Bristol Bay are proof that he is a conservationist in this area. He cited the Kvichak River as an example of his conservation mindedness, and maintained that the accusations that he does not care about conservation were unfounded.

4:52:12 PM

CHAIR REVAK closed public testimony on the appointments for the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission and the Board of Fisheries. He informed the public that written testimony could be sent to sres@akleg.gov.

He solicited a motion.

4:52:24 PM

SENATOR MICCICHE moved to advance the following named appointee to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission to a joint session of the full legislature for consideration

Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission
Melvin Smith - Anchorage

[4:52:39 PM](#)

CHAIR REVAK found no objection and announced motion passed.

[4:52:48 PM](#)

SENATOR MICCICHE moved to advance the following named appointees to the Board of Fisheries to a joint session of the full legislature for consideration:

Board of Fisheries

John Jensen - Petersburg

Abe Williams - Anchorage

McKenzie Mitchell - Fairbanks

John Wood - Willow

Marit Carlson-Van Dort - Chignik

CHAIR REVAK found no objection and stated the motion passed.

[4:53:34 PM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Revak adjourned the Senate Resources Standing Committee meeting at 4:53 p.m.